

Evaluating Print Sources

Review Evaluating a print source means judging its quality and the quality of the information it contains. A source that is believable is said to have **credibility**. Evaluate a source by considering author and publisher, possible bias, **reliability**, **currency**, and **coverage**.

A. Directions: Read the information for each source. Then **circle** the letter *or letters* of the credibility problems. (HINT: There may be more than one correct choice.)

1. *Save Our Oceans!* by Marta Rondon
Author Credentials: Dr. Rondon is an oceanographer with the National Aquarium.
Publisher: California University Press **Copyright:** 2004

a. **Authorship/Publisher:** Are the author’s credentials listed?

b. **Bias:** Is the purpose to inform, persuade, or entertain?

c. **Currency:** Is the source timely?
2. “The Central Intelligence Agency Today” by Stavros Nicholopoulos
Author Credentials: Stavros Nicholopoulos was a CIA director for 20 years.
Publisher: *The Washington Post* **Copyright:** 1991

a. **Authorship/Publisher:** Is the author a recognized expert?

b. **Authorship/Publisher:** Is the publisher known for factual articles?

c. **Currency:** When was the source published?
3. *Ban Nuclear Power* by Gareth Winfrey **Copyright:** 2006

Gareth Winfrey has campaigned against nuclear power and food additives for more than a decade. He is a board-certified dentist in Fresno, California.

Foreword

This book was prompted by the proposal to build new nuclear power plants across America to provide alternative fuel sources.

88

Few people understand the dangers that nuclear power poses. Living near a power plant is like living atop a major earthquake fault.

- a. **Check Authorship/Publisher:** Are author credentials listed?

b. **Check Bias:** Is the purpose to inform, persuade, or entertain?

c. **Check Currency:** When was the source published?

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Research and Study Skills 6

RETEACHING WORKSHEET, CONTINUED

B. Describe the credibility problem the source in question 3 may have.

4. _____
